

impressed by Ruby's sincerity

Statewide

'A Troubled Man'

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Belli to Head Ruby Defense

San Francisco attorney Mel Belli spent two hours with Jack Ruby in his Dallas cell yesterday and then announced he would "definitely defend" the slayer of President Kennedy's accused assassin.

Belli, who disclosed he had been called into the case shortly after the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald, told The Chronicle he would use "some of the top psychiatrists in the country" to help him defend Ruby.

His plea, Belli said, would be temporary insanity—"not guilty, and not guilty by reason of insanity." Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade will ask the death penalty.

"I've never been more impressed with the sincerity of a man," Belli said of Ruby. "This man is deeply troubled. My eyes were wet when I left that cell; we had to re-live the assassination all over again."

Belli said Ruby's brother, Earl, had asked him to take on the defense "very shortly after" Oswald was gunned down November 24 while surrounded by Dallas police, and in sight of millions of television viewers.

Belli said he couldn't mention it then, however, because he was trying a murder case in Los Angeles,

and any announcement might have prejudiced that case.

With that case sent to a jury, he said he flew into Dallas Monday night to study the case.

Finally satisfied, after see-

ing Ruby as well, that the slayer had no connection with Oswald and that the Dallas police "didn't conspire to let him (Ruby) get close to Oswald," Belli said he decided to take the case.